

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3979

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAVIA AND LATIN AMERICA

1. HEAD OF OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN IN
FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FSFA) MOMCILO
VUCEKOVIC DISCUSSED ISSUES NOW BEFORE LIMA NON-ALIGNED
CONFERENCE AND YUGOSLAV RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA IN
MEETING WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR AUGUST 27.

2. VUCEKOVIC WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO RE-STATE YUGOSLAVIA'S
POSITION ON EXPELLING ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS,
STRESSING YUGOSLAV OPPOSITION TO EXPULSION AND INTERPRETING
FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC'S STATEMENTS AT LIMA AS ALTERNATIVE
TO THIS SEVERE MEASURE. IN POINTING TO "BROAD POSSIBILITIES"
FOR SANCTIONS MINIC SAYING THERSYA SPECTRUM IN WHICH LESS
SEVERE MEASURES SHOULD BE TRIED FIRST ACCORDING VUCEKOVIC.

3. ON ISSUES OF PANAMA CANAL AND PUERTO RICO, VUCEKOVIC
SAID YUGOSLAVIA FOLLOWS POSITIONS OF MOST LATIN AMERICAN

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STATES, I.E., PANAMA'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER CANAL SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AND PUERTO RICO IS CULTURALLY PART OF LATIN WORLD. HE BELIEVES YUGOSLAV POSITION SHOULD NOT DISTURB RELATIONS WITH U.S. POLITICAL COOUNSELOR STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF THESE ISSUES TO U.S. AND IMPOS-SIBILITY ISOLATING OUT BILATERAL RELATIONS FROM THEM. HE NOTED SECRETARY KISSINGER CURRENTLY IN MIDST OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO PANAMIANIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER CANAL AND STRESSED THAT PUERTO RICANS HAVE VOTED FREELY FOR ASSOCIATION WITH U.S. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

4. WHEN ASKED IF PRESIDENT TITO PLANS TO VISIT LATIN AMERICA THIS YEAR, VUCEKOVIC REPLIED THAT A NUMBER IF INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED BY MEXICO AND PERU AMONG OTHERS, THAT TITO HAD NOT VISITED LATIN AMERICA FOR SOME YEARS BUT THAT IT TOO EARLY TO SAY ANY-THING SPECIFIC.

5. COMMENT: GENERAL IMPRESSION GLEANED FROM CALL IS THAT LATIN AMERICAN SECTION OF FSFA IS BACWATER CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS IN LOW PRIORITY AREA OF WORLD. VUCEKOVIC WAS ILL-INFORMED ON STATUS OF PUERTO RICO AND SAID INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SECTION OF FSFA HAS MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH QUESTIONS WHICH ARISE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. HE IMPLIED THAT NEITHER PANAMA CANAL NOR PEURTO RICO ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR GOY, WHOSE STAND MIRRORS THAT OF ITS LATIN AMERICAN FRIENDS. VUCEKOVIC EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY FROM LIMA WHICH PORTRAYED FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC AS LEADING CHARGE AGAINST U.S. IN ADDRESS TO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.
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